



21 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Headteacher Update – Week 3A

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your support in ensuring your child has returned to school with the commitment to meet our CORE expectations regarding our uniform, behaviour, punctuality and conduct standards.

We continue to focus our efforts and attention in working with students and their families to ensure they have clarity around our expectations. Where needed, we aim to remove any barriers that may be preventing any student or their family in committing to our school standards and expectations.

I would like to acknowledge the great work that our pastoral team are doing in establishing the culture that we expect for all our students in our school community. This, alongside the support of our fantastic tutors, is helping to ensure that if a student falls below our expectations, appropriate communication takes place to discuss and secure a commitment moving forwards.

To ensure we maintain our high standards and commitment towards achieving excellence, we have reflected on our approach so far and made some changes that will ensure that every student who is part of our school community is making a positive contribution.

As of Monday 25 September, members of the Senior Leadership Team and the pastoral team will be present at the school gates to welcome all students into school each day; during this time, they will address and correct any uniform issues. We are committed to supporting our students to have the very best possible start to the school day, so that the focus for everyone can be on high quality, disruption-free teaching and learning.

Further to this, we are going to be prioritising punctuality to school and lessons, as of Monday. At every lesson transition, we have a movement bell to signal to our students to move to their next lesson or break. We have also added a late bell, allowing five minutes for all students to move to their next lesson. Any student that arrives after the late bell will be recorded as late on Class Charts. This will allow both the school and parent/carers to monitor student punctuality and, where there are any patterns that cause concern, we can aim to address these.

I continue to kindly ask for your commitment in working with us to maintain the high standards that we expect from all of our students.

Celebration

There has been a great deal to celebrate since the start of the new academic year but I wanted to particularly share how proud we are of our newest cohort of students in year 7. They have made a wonderful start to secondary school and last week they had the opportunity to take



part in a tutor experience day, where they participated in a range of team building activities that enabled them to build upon new friendships and make lifelong memories. I would like to thank our staff who organised the event, and the wonderful Year 7 tutors.

We were delighted with the success of our Year 6 Open Evening which took place at the start of this week. It was wonderful to welcome an unprecedented number of parent/carers along with their children to our school. Our school ambassadors were a real credit to our school community. I would like to thank Year 7 students who shared their experiences of the positive transition experience they have had from primary school and Year 13 students, Eve and Dom, who spoke with such diligence and pride about their school community and the positive impact that their teachers have had on helping them achieve their ambitions. A big thank you to all our staff who made the event such a special occasion.

Pupil Premium and Free School Meals

Please find attached a letter providing information regarding Pupil Premium and how to apply for Free School Meals (subject to eligibility).

Looking ahead...

Monday 25 September 2023 – Year 12 Assessment Week

Thursday 28 September 2023 – Year 11 Parent's Information Evening

Thursday 5 October 2023 – Year 7 Tutor Information Evening

I close my first update letter of the academic year by sharing that feedback is a gift. We remain committed and focused on our achievement of excellence and we recognise that receiving feedback from our parent/carer community is important. I would like to thank everyone who continues to contact us to share positive feedback but also ideas about how we could further improve.

Thank you for your continued support of Plymstock School.

Yours faithfully,



Alan Yendell
Headteacher

